



# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Patrick Weigand pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to possession with intent to distribute over 500 grams of methamphetamine.

On October 31, 2002, officers with the Barron County Sheriff's Department, along with agents of the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, executed a search warrant in Barron County at the residence of Michael Stoel. Agents recovered several pounds of suspected methamphetamine. That methamphetamine was later tested at the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory and found to contain over 500 grams of pure methamphetamine. The government's evidence showed that Weigand provided that methamphetamine to Michael Stoel the previous day, October 30, 2002, with the understanding that Stoel would resell that methamphetamine. On July 30, 2003, Stoel was sentenced to 178 months in prison for possession of that methamphetamine with intent to distribute.

Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled sentencing for July 27, 2005. Weigand faces a mandatory minimum of ten years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The charges against Weigand were the result of an investigation conducted by the Barron County Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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